(c) what steps had been initiated to desist Maoists to co-operate with North-Easterri insurgent groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Government is not aware of any conclusive evidence to suggest that ULFA have set up camps in Nepal.

Government of India is concerned about the security implications for India of links between Nepal's Maoists and the Indian Naxalites and other insurgent groups due to the open and unregulated border. Recognizing that the growth of Maoist insurgency in Nepal is a shared security concern, we have provided appropriate assistance to Nepal, including supply of military equipment and training. Measures have been taken for effective cross border cooperation and intelligence sharing. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has been deployed along the border to strengthen security in the border areas.

British ban on transfer of nuclear technology

2578. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britian has refused to relax the ban on the transfer of nuclear technology to India until the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Prime Minister during the recent visit to England, last month raised the issue with British Prime Minister and impressed upon him to remove the ban keeping in view India's credibility as a nuclear power; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the British Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government of UK is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and an active member of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG). The UK earlier had a policy of denying export licensing applications for items listed in the NSG dual use list to nuclear

and nuclear related end users in India, which exceeded the restrictions imposed by NSG. Recently the UK Government has adjusted its policy with regard to nuclear related transfers and scientific contacts with India in line with their NSG commitments. Accordingly while the UK will continue to deny applications in respect of items on the NSG Dual Use list when they are destined for unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activities, it will now consider on a case-by-case basis license applications for items on the NSG Dual Use list destined for other activities in India.

India and the UK are engaged in a comprehensive dialogue as part of their close and multi-faceted relationship. In September, 2004, Prime Ministers of the two countries launched a Joint Declaration 'Towards New and Dynamic Partnership" in which they agreed to expand cooperation in the field of civilian nuclear activities in accordance with their international obligations.

Abolition of child labour

2579. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any initiatives to abolish child labour in the country on the lines of the initiatives taken and success achieved by the Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented so as to abolish child labour in various States?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) Based on the National Child Labour Policy 1987 for the elimination of child labour, Government of India is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme throughout the country since 1988. The number of the districts under the Scheme has been extended to 250 in 21 States during the Tenth Plan. The Scheme is being implemented in 13 districts of Tamil Nadu for eliminaion of child labour from the State. Under the Scheme, special schools are set up for rehabilitation of the child labour withdrawn from work, and are provided with free educational and vocational training, stipend, mid-day-meal, health care facilities and finally mainstreamed into the formal system of education.